



Governor Kim Reynolds  
Lt. Governor Adam Gregg  
San Wong, Director

## MINUTES

Iowa Commission on the Status of Women Meeting  
Friday, July 8 · 10:00 – 10:30am  
Location: Virtual or dial-in

### Call to Order:

Meeting called to order at 10:03 am by Beth Coonan, chairperson.

### Present:

Beth Coonan, Sherill Whisenand, Andrew Lauver, Esperance Nibizi, William Fleming, Matthew Gilbert

Absent: San Wong, ex-officio

### Staff:

Kim Cheeks

### Approval of agenda:

Motion from Whisenand to approve the agenda, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Lauver, approved unanimously.

### Presentation of 2022 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame (IWHOF) proposed honorees from the 2022 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame Selection Committee:

Whisenand, chairperson of 2022 IWHOF, presented the proposals from the selection committee for approval from the board, the recipients of the IWHOF. The committee can select up to four recipients, and there can be nominations from the floor for the Cristine Wilson Medal for Equality and Justice (CWMEJ).

### HOF inductees selected:

1. Betty Bates Cowles, posthumously, Des Moines
2. Mary Richards, Ames
3. Laurie Schipper, Ankeny
4. Mary Swander, Kalona

CW Medal for Equality & Justice presented by Deb Chiodo, public member, chosen recipient:

Ako Abdul-Samad, State Representative, author, president - Iowa Black Caucus, 8<sup>th</sup> term Iowa House, wrote a book about his son's murder, lifetime activism with Black Panthers, present for various Marches for equality.

Lauver – commend Sherill on the process. Said the meeting went well, there was robust conversation, not everyone agreed, but it was a good thing, and ended up with consensus.

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Whisenand – thanked Fleming for giving his feedback/choices in his absence. They used his input to break ties. She wanted to remind everyone that submissions are good for three years.

Vote on 2022 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame nominees:

Whisenand motioned to induct Elizabeth Bates Cowles into the 2022 IWHOF, Fleming 2<sup>nd</sup>, approved unanimously

Fleming motioned to induct Mary Elaine Richards into the 2022 IWHOF, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Lauver, approved unanimously

Whisenand motioned to induct Laurie Schipper into the 2022 IWHOF, Fleming 2<sup>nd</sup>, approved unanimously

Fleming motioned to induct Mary Swander into the 2022 IWHOF, Whisenand 2<sup>nd</sup>, approved unanimously

Vote on 2022 Cristine Wilson Medal for Equality and Justice Recipient:

Motion by Lauver to accept Ako Abdul-Samad as the recipient of the 2022 CW Medal for Equality and Justice, Gilbert 2<sup>nd</sup>, approved unanimously

Whisenand:

Notifications will be made the recipients and the nominators next week. She asked the members to hold the information until all the recipients are notified.

Coonan:

Next steps; DHR will generate a media release to announce the 2022 recipients.

Whisenand:

The event is Sat. 8/27 at the Des Moines Community Playhouse on 42<sup>nd</sup> Street, she will be asking commissioners for help for the following; ushering, handing out programs, technical assistance with lighting, and hosting the reception after the ceremony. She encouraged all commission members to arrive at 8:30 a.m., the event begins at 9:30 a.m. This year's event will be honoring past years 2020, 2021 and their families will be invited, and she is trying to figure out how to include them in the logistics. She is asking for commissioners' ideas how.

Coonan, added the quarterly commission meeting will be held after the ceremony, she will work with Cheeks to create an agenda.

Whisenand turned the meeting back over to chair Coonan.

Question from Fleming, are the Cristine Wilson nominations good for three years as well? Coonan, replied yes, they are treated the same as the HOF nominations. Are the nominators notified? Yes, they will be and told the nomination is considered for three years.

Old/New Business:

Coonan – indicated there is no new or old business.

She encouraged all members to attend the ceremony and assist with the event. If unable to attend, reach out to her to discuss other ways to help in the planning. Additional information about the event will be shared via email.

Adjournment:

Motion by Fleming to adjourn, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Lauver, approved unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 10:30 AM

Meeting prepared by Kim Cheeks, staff

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kim Cheeks". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.